



# Proud Possessors of a Priceless Heritage



## Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Colorado Electronic Update



### THESE ARE OUR OUR PROGRAMS



### This is Our Purpose:

## To Adapt in Letter and Spirit, All the Great Principles for Which The American Legion Stands, and to Assist in Carrying on for God and Country



### A Triple Nickle Detachment Home to Past National Commanders Mike Moss and Danny Smith



### 2022-2023 National Vice-Commander Michael Kirschner

BE THE ONE

## Detachment Commander: Richard Humphrey

BE THE ONE

*This publication does not express the official position of the SAL Detachment of Colorado, The American Legion Department of Colorado or their respective National Organizations. It is a forum to share information about events and happenings within the Detachment of Colorado, the National Organization of the Sons of The American Legion, and information that is pertinent to the programs and four pillars of The American Legion. This publication is compiled and published as a volunteer service by Detachment Adjutant Mark A Kilstrom. Submit questions, comments, photos and stories to [saladj@coloradolegion.org](mailto:saladj@coloradolegion.org).*

### Commanders Mission Objective: Rekindle the Spark

**Mission Statement:** *To not only honor our fathers, mothers and grandparents by our continued service to God And Country, but to rekindle the spark of our veterans and community with the ideas of patriotism, citizenship and the American Flag*



1932

# 90 Years in the Making! Sons, Still Serving Those Who Served !BE THE ONE!



2022

## Share Your Plans to Celebrate SAL's 90th Anniversary

From Legion.org

The American Legion SEP 11, 2022

It's a momentous week in the history of the Sons of The American Legion, as the program celebrates its 90th anniversary. During the American Legion National Convention in Portland, Ore., the week of Sept. 12-15, 1932, the Sons of The American Legion was authorized, following three years of study by national committees. The idea of a junior American Legion organi-

zation had actually been suggested by the Department of Kansas in 1921. Although there was no official national program, by the late 1920s American Legion posts around the country had started to create their own junior organizations. Those included Legion-Heirs, Junior Legion, Sons of American Legionnaires, Sons of The American Legion, and Sons of World War Veterans. The American Legion created a committee at the 1930 national convention to study the

feasibility of a junior Legion, and the organization was approved in 1932. Bruce P. Robinson Squadron 133 in Indianapolis is credited as the first local Sons of The American Legion squadron, established in June 1933. Over the course of the next year, we'll be sharing highlights of the SAL's first 90 years. And we want to know what your detachments and squadrons are planning to recognize the SAL's 90th anniversary. Share your stories on [Legiontown.org](http://Legiontown.org).



## November: Election Day, Veterans Day

From legion.org

### What are you doing to Get Out the Vote?

The final countdown to Election Day is near. And the goal of The American Legion and its [Get Out the Vote program](#) is to encourage Americans to vote, and to suggest activities on how American Legion posts can increase voter turnout. The American Legion's Get Out The Vote program encourages Americans to exercise their right to vote and help others understand the importance of the electoral process. The program suggests activities on how American

Legion posts can increase voter turnout such as calling potential voters to get to the polls, volunteer in their communities by providing rides to and from the polls if necessary, use social media to share information about poll locations and times, and place newspaper ads or public service announcements in local media that promote registration and voting. Download The American Legion's "[Vote, America](#)" publication for ideas on how you or your post can participate at the local level with GOTV efforts. Does your American Legion post have plans to support and promote Election Day, Nov. 3? If yes, please share what those plans are

by sending an email to [crichardson@legion.org](mailto:crichardson@legion.org) or sharing on [www.legiontown.org](http://www.legiontown.org). As a reminder, you can wear your American Legion cap

### About Get Out The Vote

In 1920, during The American Legion National Convention in Cleveland, the organization went on record urging all American Legion men to become qualified voters. Since then, the organization has passed countless similar resolutions advocating Legionnaires to not only exercise their constitutional re-

(Continued on page 3)

## Commander's Message

Submitted by Richard Humphrey, Detachment Commander



**H**ello Son's, It has been a very interesting 3 months. I have attended several meetings of both the Sons of The American Legion and Posts of The American Legion. Hopefully I have been able to pass on my mission to those organizations about getting out and Re-Kindle the Spark. Getting out and doing what we do best. Promote membership, promote the programs, communicate with the members of their organization using the Buddy Check program.

Commander's, we all know how most membership meetings are, old business, new busi-

ness, etc, it is just the way it is, so change them up a little. There is nothing that says you can't have some fun at your meetings. Take your Squadron handbook and have a class on one section of the 10 Ideals; how many know the reason for each fold of the American flag or how many know the history of your Squadron.

The Detachment made the first of our goals in membership by 2. This was done, mostly, by our Permanent Members. We have our next goal due October 13th of 10%. As of this time, we need to get busy and get renewals processed into the Detachment Adjutant. He's sitting at home doing nothing but twirling his thumbs. Let's put him to work processing membership.

Why should you renew your membership in this organization? There are really sever-

al reasons that come to mind. We joined this organization with an expectation and when our expectations are met or fulfilled, we continue to renew our membership. Membership provides us opportunities to meet, work with, and exchange information and express ideas with other individuals who have similar goals and ideas. Membership provides an opportunity to work in or relax in an environment where plans and ideas are expressed with a common goal in mind.

If these are some of the reasons you joined the Sons of The American Legion, contact your Adjutant and renew your membership for the 2023 year.

Richard L. Humphrey  
Detachment Commander



## Around the Detachment

September 3, Squadron 178 hosted it's annual Horseshoe tournament in their expansive horseshoe pit. Along with the Posts' car show



over \$1,000 was raised for the Tuskegee Airmen fund and over \$600 for JFK HS Honor Platoon that

performed for the Post.

September 16th, Squadron 209 visited the Revel Providence Sr. Living center where they served refreshments and visited



with several veterans residence. They veterans ranged from WWII thru the



Vietnam war. Detachment Chaplain Brad and Squadron Commander/Detachment Jr. Vice-commander Rob Berry performed the POW/Empty Chair Ceremony. The Post 209 family was well represented with members of the Legion, Auxiliary, ALR and of course the SAL were all present. Each



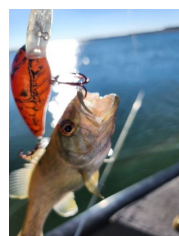
of the veterans attending were given a certificate of appreciation for their service and given the opportunity to share

some of there experiences. Some were quite interesting.

September 17th Detachment Commander Richard Humphrey visited the western slope to meet Jr Vice-Commander Randy Forsythe and with members of Squadrons 65 and 24 as part of the District Conference in Delta, CO.



September 23 Adjutant Mark visited Pueblo and met up with a monster!

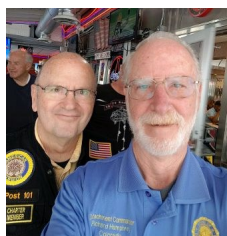


Just checking to see if anybody reads this. All comments welcome. (I really caught this beast)

September 25 American Legion Post 1 Color Gard presented the Nations' Colors at Coors Field for the National Anthem at the Colorado Rockies final home game of the season. Great Job and a fine way to represent The American Legion. Elementary students of St Vincent's Academy sang the National Anthem.



October 5th, Commander Richard visited Squadron 101 at Rosey's Diner in Aurora for their breakfast meeting. Squadron 101 recently reached 100% membership with a large percentage of their members



named O'Connor, kind of a family affair.

The Post 119 Family is offering Veterans a free breakfast on Veterans Day form 7-10 am.

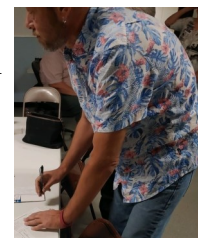
The Post 38 Family in Fountain is holding their Trunk or Treat Cub Scout Halloween party on 29 October 1-4 pm and a haunted house 3-4 pm and 5-10 pm. They are asking donations for entry. (info obtained form Post 38 Facebook page).

October 15-19 was a very busy weekend for the Commander and Adjutant. Commander Richard visited Post 2017 in Liman and met with the Commander of newly formed Squadron 2017. We hope to present their charter at Mid-year DEC



meeting. Since he was in the neighborhood he swung up to Fort Morgan for District Conference and met up with SAL

Squadron 19 Commander Zane. That wasn't enough for our Commander, He swung up to visit Post 68 in Brush and walked away with a new Squadron Charter application and 14



new members. This marks the 2nd Squadron Charter application for this membership year and we drive towards our 2nd Triple Nickle. No, the dog is not eligible. Meanwhile, Adjutant Mark was busy making a swing along the front range. Starting off in Es-

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## Your 2022-2023 Detachment Leadership



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## Get Out the Vote; Veterans Day

*(Continued from page 1)*

responsibility to vote, but to also encourage others to do the same. Elections are important to our republic. As citizens of this great nation, it is our duty and responsibility to exercise this right of franchise by casting our ballots on Election Day and to encourage others to do so as well. It was on this premise that The American Legion's "Get Out the Vote" program was initiated shortly after the organization's inception. Today it is as important as it was in elections past.

The Legion's "Get Out the Vote" program encourages all Americans to register and vote in all elections. In addition, Legionnaires, posts, districts and departments are encouraged to fully involve themselves in the electoral process by serving as poll volunteers, poll workers and by encouraging and assisting others to register and vote.

All Legionnaires are encouraged to renew their commitment for continued service to this country by being politically active as individuals. By working together as an organization we can make a difference by promoting an informed populace, participation in our government, and involvement in its electoral process. We cannot forget that in this country, our government is "of the people, by the people and for the people." It cannot survive as a democratic republic unless the people participate. That is our task.

### Veterans Day

The Post 119 Legion Family in Estes Park has several activities honoring our Veterans. A free breakfast will be served free to our veterans 7-10 AM with a \$10 charge for family members and other non-veterans. At 3 PM that afternoon we will have a ceremony at the Veterans Monument near the Visitor

Center. In the evening, a steak dinner will be served at half price for Veterans. We will also have free tickets for Veterans to "Listening at the Legion" starring Rebecca Folsom. We'll have a meaningful and enjoyable day.

The Post 103 Family in Littleton will be participating in a Ceremony at the Veterans Memorial in Ketring Park at 11:00 am. Ketring Park is located at 6000 S Gallop in Littleton, CO



***"One visit to a country without freedom makes one realize that freedom is a precious gift with fighting for"***  
**Ernest E West**  
**U.S. Army**  
**Medal of Honor**

## Recruitment Program Results in Success for Florida Post

The American Legion  
 JUL 13, 2022

American Legion Post 90 in Cape Coral, Fla., recruited 69 new members into the post for the 2022 membership year. Post 90's marketing committee was responsible for 27 of those new members, said Post 90's Public Relations Officer Ted Clark.

Members of the Marketing Committee staffed a Post 90 booth at trade shows and festivals in Cape Coral to recruit new members. Festivals included the German American Oktoberfest, the Irish American Festival and the Cape Cor-

al Arts Festival. The Marketing Committee also attended all three evenings of Cape Coral Bike Night to promote their Legion Riders program to potential members. "This tactic has earned the Marketing Committee a substantial list of leads and evidence that trade shows turned out to be a vital step toward attracting veterans to our post and our programs," Clark said. "Overall, the post gained tremendous publicity, received exposure to hundreds of fair, festival and event attendees, interacted directly with an aver-

age of 55 participants at each event, and gathered data for follow-up with an average of 30 (potential new members) at the most prominent events.

"The success of the trade show recruitment program was measured by cross-checking the leads developed at trade shows with the current membership roster. To ensure all member prospects recognize the value of their membership, the Marketing Committee follows up and meets quarterly to call or email the leads."



## QR Codes for Quick, Efficient Responses TAL National Commander

By Vincent "Jim" Troiola, National Commander  
OCT 05, 2022  
From Legion.org



Those of us who previously didn't pay much attention to those weird little black and white boxes printed on magazines, signs and flyers have now become keenly aware of QR

codes. Early in the pandemic, you couldn't see a restaurant's menu without a QR code.

We no longer need to download a special app to translate a QR code. In most cases, all we need to do is aim a mobile-phone camera at the code, click it, and up pops a website or app that can help us do whatever we want.

Increasingly, QR codes are being printed into American Legion national media. There's a QR code for the Legion's Grassroots Advocacy Center that takes you to our legislative priorities and allows you to contact elected officials. A QR code was established to download the national convention app last August so visitors could keep up with the agenda. Codes appear in *American Legion Magazine* ads for opportunities ranging from Omaha Steaks to USAA financial services. We even had a QR code designed into the purple 2022 100 Miles for Hope bandanas participants wore in their fitness journeys and fundraising efforts for the American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation. And a QR code is now available to learn more about the Be the One campaign. "QR" stands for quick response.

That's why American Legion Department of New York Commander Dave Riley prominently displays a QR code on his personal vehicle, which is also wrapped in the Legion's emblem and the department web address. The QR code simplifies it all. "Now," Commander Riley explains, veterans "can scan the back of

my car and join."

QR codes are extremely efficient and quick. From scanning the QR code to completing a payment for renewal of dues, for instance, takes just a couple of minutes and does not depend on the mail.

Creating a QR code is not complicated. This week, [The American Legion Media Alliance \(TALMA\)](#) is conducting a training session from national visual media manager Holly Soria that explains how easy it is to set up a QR code and make the most of it.

If you are involved in post, district or department communications and are not yet a member of [TALMA](#), I encourage you to [join and take in some of these valuable sessions](#). These regular training sessions are among the benefits of TALMA membership. As we grow ever more digital in our connections, we ease the burden and accelerate the process, which is the way consumers want to operate today. Moreover, the time previously spent on processes and transactions is time we can now fully devote to strengthening America through our advocacy, programs and services for veterans, the military, youth and patriotic communities everywhere.

For God and Country,  
Vincent "Jim" Troiola  
National Commander.

American Legion VoterVoice QR Code



Scan this code to sign up for VoterVoice and help veterans



## Top Ten' American Flag Myths

**The Flag Code is The American Legion Flag Code.**

On Flag Day, June 14, 1923, The American Legion and representatives of 68 other patriotic, fraternal, civic and military organizations met in Washington, DC for the purpose of drafting a code of flag etiquette. The 77th Congress adopted this codification of rules as public law on June 22, 1942. It is Title 4, United States Code Chapter 1.

**A flag that has been used to cover a casket cannot be used for any other proper display purpose.**

A flag that has been used to cover a casket can be used for any proper display purpose to include displaying this flag from a staff or flagpole.

**The Flag Code prohibits the display of a United States flag of less than 50 stars.**

According to the U.S. Army Institute of Heraldry the United States flag never becomes obsolete. Any officially approved American flag, irrespective of the number or arrangement of the stars and/or stripes may continue to be used and displayed until no longer serviceable.

**The Flag Code does provide for penalties for violations of any of its provisions.**

The Flag Code is simply a guideline for proper flag etiquette. The law does not provide penalties for violation of any of its provisions.

**You must destroy the flag when it touches the ground.**

As long as the flag remains suitable for display, the flag may continue to be displayed as a symbol of our great country.

**The Flag Code prohibits the washing or dry-cleaning of the flag.**

There are no provisions of the Flag Code, which prohibit the washing or dry-cleaning of the flag. The decision to wash or dry-clean would of course depend upon the type of material.

**There has been a change to the Flag Code that no longer requires the flag to be properly illuminated during the hours of darkness.**

There has been NO CHANGE to Flag Code section 6(a), which states: "It is the universal custom to display the flag only from sunrise to sunset on

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## Legion Gets Firsthand Look at Milwaukee's Homeless Veteran Initiatives

From legion.org By Steven B. Brooks  
SEP 08, 2022

As has been a regular occurrence during American Legion national conventions, national staff and members of the Legion's Veterans Employment & Education Commission have toured facilities geared to assist homeless veterans within convention host cities.

That was the case again this year in Milwaukee, when an American Legion contingent were provided tours and information about ways local organizations and initiatives are helping address, and assist, homelessness among the city's and state's veteran population.

The first stop was at Vets Place Central, an 80-resident homeless veterans residence managed by [The Center for Veterans Issues](#) (CVI), which provides housing and supportive services to help improve the quality of life for all veterans, their families, and the communities in which they live and serve.

Michael Beal, CVI's Vice President of Programs and Services, has worked for the community-based organization since shortly after he left the U.S. Marine Corps in 1995 after being medically retired after 18 years of service.

CVI works with government entities, and corporate donors that include the Green Bay Packers, Harley-Davidson and Milwaukee

Tool – which provided all the equipment for a woodburning operation on site at Vets Place Central – while also fundraising on its own.

Beal said the decades of being able to assist fellow veterans makes him feel "like I've come home. It's a wonderful thing when you get up every day and know that you're going to make a difference in somebody's life. But more importantly, you can see that difference."

At Vets Place Central, veterans can either use the facility as a short-term housing option for up to two years or choose to make it their permanent residence. For the short-term stays, the facility also provides access to resources to help the veteran wanting to get out on their own "help them find housing. Help them secure the first month's rent, security deposit, moving expenses ... whatever it takes to get them on their feet," Beal said.

"Those services are provided here. And the great thing is that if a veteran here gets

squared away and gets back on their feet, and a year from now the bottom falls out, they can come right back here. There's no charge, and we get right back on them again. Whatever it takes to get them and their family up and running."

Those who choose to stay at the facility permanently, "thrive within a community of veterans," Beal said. "All their food, the meals are provided here. Activities are provided here. If they need mental health counseling, all that is provided here. If they need transportation to get back and forth to their VA medical appointments, all that is provided here. Whatever they need to stay stably housed is all provided here."

Two Department of Veterans Affairs social workers are on site at the facility, which also includes a game room, a TV room, laundry facilities and an outdoor vegetable garden that both residents and community youth help maintain. Some residents of the facilities perform work details within the facility.

"Everyone here is a veteran, and as a veteran we understand you have to take care of where you live," Beal said. "There are certain work details and such. That's just how we're put together."

The Legion contingent was given short tours of CVI's Heroes Market, which serves as a food pantry for area veterans and their fami-

(Continued on page 6)



An American Legion contingent tours Vets Place Central, a homeless veterans facility in Milwaukee, during the 2022 American Legion National Convention. (Photo by Jeric Wilhelmsen)

## Membership Tips and Tricks

*Well, there aren't any tricks, or at least there shouldn't be. However with the ambitious goal of attaining 1,000,000 members by 2032 we will need to get a bit creative, and mostly that means getting back to basics. Here are some ideas being implemented around the detachment. We encourage you to share your ideas. Send them in to the Adjutant for inclusion in future issues. The last couple years have been rough for all of us. Let's put it behind us and drive forward, reboot and*

### REKINDLE THE SPARK

Buddy checks, Covid took a toll on many and some members just faded into the background. If you've got members who haven't renewed for a year or so, give them a call or drop by and check-in on them, You might be surprised what a personal call or visit means. We all joined for a reason, in most cases those reasons still exist, when you do your buddy check calls, ask a few questions and find out why they joined and why they left, maybe is-

sues can be resolved. Change up your meeting a bit. Make quick work of what business you have to do and make the rest about training or exchanging ideas about what events you can do or community events to participate in such as Adapt a Highway, neighborhood clean up, stand down days for vets. Making new members feel welcome and being a part of something special is a key

element for retention. The Squadron Handbook has a section on the "Initiation Ceremony". This instills a sense of ownership and belonging, a sense of obligation. When was the last time your Squadron did member initiations.? Some Squadrons send a "welcome letter" to new members. Below is an actual one that Squadron 2 sends out. Copy this one or make up your own. It can make a difference.



## Sons of The American Legion Squadron #2

Ovie Vernon Post #2 701 W 9th St. Pueblo, CO 81003  
719-544-8245

Sept. 12, 2022  
New Member  
123 Any Street  
Hometown, CO 80000

Dear New Member,

Thank you for joining or renewing your membership for 2023 with the Sons of The American Legion. You will find your membership card enclosed. If you haven't gotten your door entry key card just present this card to either the office or bartender next time you are at the Post, and one will be provided to you. We do truly appreciate your membership but are hoping that we can also count on your involvement though the year.

We have a busy year planned and will need help and support throughout it. Through the year the Sons will continue to promote, support financially, and volunteer our time to help our Veterans, Community, and Children and Youth. This past year we donated approximately \$3000, volunteered over 930 hours, and place 1200 flags on veterans' graves. This was done with the help of members like you.

We hold our meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 6pm. This is your opportunity to voice your opinion and ideas on what we do and how we do it. We sponsor a dinner on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month to help raise funds for our donations. Come down and help or you can also support by purchasing a dinner or two. The Legion has a hamburger night every Wednesday at the Post and host a Bingo session on Tuesday evenings at Bingo Casino. We are always looking for help there as well. Remember that along with the rewards of membership in this great organization there are also obligations. We need each of our 120 local members to help when and where they can.

If you have any questions, concerns, or would like to volunteer please feel free to contact the post and leave a message (719)544-8245. Thanks again for your interest and for joining the Sons of The American Legion!

Proud Possessor of a Priceless Heritage,

Michael Kirschner  
Adjutant/Finance Officer  
Sons of The American Legion  
Ovie Vernon Squadron #2

## Around the Detachment

(Continued from page 2)

tes Park at Post 119 for a Squadron fund raiser offering discounted computer repair with proceeds going to the SAL to them support the Four pillars. Mark met up with Commander Dorian Cox, Adjutant Mark Chrastil and ALR President Mike Staudte, and setting them up with access to mylerion.org to manage their membership on line. Coming down the



mountain, Mark also visited with Firestone Post 1985 meeting up with Adjutant Steve Kidd. On Sunday Mark swung by Louisville Post 111 and met Squadron Sgt-at-Arms Jeff Chase, as their Commander and Adjutant were out of town. Since he was in the neighborhood, Mark also stopped by Broomfield Post 11-11 and had a very productive visit with



Squadron Commander Huey Geller and Adjutant Dave Bucher. Commander Richard has made a commitment to visit each Squadron twice this year. We have a good start, but we have a lot of places to get to. If your Squadron is planning an event, we, your leadership team is only a phone call or email away if you'd like us to come by, no matter how big or small it might be or even attending one of your meetings or buddy check days. There are a lot of activities scheduled, On page 10 you will find flyers.



## Homeless Vets

(Continued from page 4)

lies, as well as the Milwaukee Soldiers Home, which CVI manages. Another stop during the tour was at the Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative (MHVI), which provides everything from perishable and non-perishable food, to furniture, cleaning supplies and bicycles to veterans in need. The initiative also provides outreach and education through either participating in other entities' events or hosting their own.

MHVI Board President Robert Webb, a U.S. Army Reserve judge advocate, said MHVI seeks to be a "one-stop shop" for veterans in need. "We don't want to send you out the door without something."

He added that one of the initiative's goals is to identify "those drivers and symptoms that are causing that end result of homelessness. What I look at are those drivers that put people in crisis. Things that can put you in crisis we're trying to level that out before you become homeless. The mission really is to get people (out of) being in crisis that will lead to homelessness."

MHVI Executive Director Debbie Buchanan said MHVI is able to assist veterans "who can't go to the VA or they can't go to a (service officer) because of their (military) discharge."

While at MHVI, the Legion group also was able to meet with Quentin Hatfield, executive director of Wisconsin Veterans Network, and Milwaukee County Veterans' Services Director Rick Flowers. Hatfield said his programs works with more than 75 agencies throughout the state to provide services to at-risk veterans and their families.

"Generally speaking, when they come to us, they've been to a lot of different places ... being told no," Hatfield said. "Our job is kind of to stick our fingers in the spoke and stop that from happening and figure out what they qualify for or what we can qualify them for to plug them into services."



## Chaplain's Corner

### A Few Good Men™

Submitted by Brad Henderson, Det. Chaplain



"The Few, the Proud, the Marines" You've seen the slogan. Perhaps you even responded to it.

As members of The American Legion Family, we are dedicated to the service of God and Country. Okay. So – what kind of folks do the Lord and The Legion require?

For those of Christian faith the Good Lord, born in a stable to a simple teenage girl, doesn't require fine, upstanding, wealthy people of influence to serve Him. Jesus chose twelve ordinary men, who would be used in an extraordinary manner.

What kind of men were they? At least three were fishermen. Simon (Peter) was strong-willed and courageous. Phillip was slow to recognize Jesus; once he found Him, Phillip was devoted. James of Galilee and John had strong personalities. Thomas was gloomy, and easily discouraged. Matthew was a self-absorbed tax collector until he met Jesus. These sinful, imperfect men would become disciples ("learners") of Christ.

Sound familiar? Yep – except for Judas ("the Betrayer") they were pretty much like us.

Herman Wouk's thrilling World War II novel *The Caine Mutiny* contains an excellent illustration of what happens when someone becomes a follower of God. In the novel, a young man from an influential family has enlisted in the Navy. On the day of his induction, his mother drops him off in her fancy car and kisses him goodbye. He shakes hands with the guard as he enters the building, and the door closes behind him.

His mother, suddenly worried that he might not have enough money, rushes up to the door.

The guard politely stops her. When she demands entrance, he refuses. She can see her son standing inside the door, so she reaches for the doorknob. "He's, my son!" she cries. The guard gently removes her hand from the knob and says softly, "I know, Ma'am, but he belongs to Uncle Sam now. He's a sailor."

Sound familiar? "...Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." (Mark 1: 17)

Those who believe in Jesus Christ and become His followers, are under new authority.

What was once important to them loses its significance.

Sounds great – but serving God isn't easy. Disciples then and now experience ridicule, suffering, and hardship. Then and now they are martyred in violent deaths.

Serving one's Country isn't easy in peacetime or in war, as many veterans will attest.

Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup> was set aside as National POW/MIA Remembrance Day to honor the commitment and sacrifices made by this nation's prisoners of war and those who are still missing in action, as well as their families. We will never forget.

The goal of a soldier is to please his leader. So must be our goal in the warfare at hand.

Rest assured – you're "good enough", just as you are. You are uniquely qualified to be in the army of the General who Himself died to assure our ultimate victory.

Serving God and Country,  
Chaplain Brad



**"We didn't break faith with those who died"**

**Edward R Showalter Jr. United States Army, MEDAL OF HONOR**

## Air Force Pay Cuts Canceled

19 Sep 2022

Military.com | By [Thomas Novelty](#)

**A**ir Force Secretary Frank Kendall announced Monday that the service is reversing course on a set of [pay](#) cuts that had been set to take effect next month for airmen working some of the toughest jobs.

Hundreds of airmen, many in some of the most physically demanding and difficult jobs, were scheduled to see cuts ranging from \$900 to \$5,400 a year to their Special Duty Assignment Pay, a monthly incentive bonus known as SDAP, in fiscal 2023 -- which starts Oct. 1.

But Kendall announced during his opening speech Monday at the Air & Space Forces Association's annual conference that the Department of the Air Force "will restore all the cuts to special duty assignment pay that were scheduled to take place on October 1."

Kendall cited economic pressures on airmen as the reasoning behind the decision.

"The past several months of inflation has put unique pressures on the finances of some of our airmen and Guardians in critical specialties," Kendall said. "Our system to adjust special duty pay was out of sync with the rapid changes [on] our economy brought on by COVID and the invasion of Ukraine."

The pay cuts were scheduled to come as the

Air Force struggles to recruit new talent and faces frequent criticism from the rank and file that the service isn't working hard enough to improve their quality of life. Airmen have told leadership that living comfortably and being able to provide for their families are their top priorities.

"The most common concerns I've heard from airmen and Guardians is about inflation, housing cost or conditions, and child care," Kendall said during his speech.

Kendall's reversal brings a sigh of relief for thousands of airmen. For 2022, the Air Force asked for 31,334 airmen to receive \$91.7 million as part of the SDAP bonus program. By comparison, in 2021, the service asked for 30,967 airmen to receive \$90.8 million.

Dozens of Air Force career fields would have been affected by the cut to Special Assignment Duty Pay, including pararescuemen, basic military training instructors and load masters.

And recruiters, who are directly confronting the trouble the service is facing attracting new airmen, were also set to lose Special Assignment Duty Pay. They were slated to lose their \$75 in special duty pay each month for fiscal 2023, adding up to \$900 a year in lost wages.

Kendall addressed the recruiting challenges briefly in his speech, saying the Air Force will meet its end-of-year goals but will be in

a tough position over the next couple of years.

"The Air Force is, generally, in much better shape than other services, and the Space Force is easily meeting its goals," Kendall said. "We expect the Air Force active component to meet its recruiting goals for this year, but with less margin than we typically see -- a downward trend that may pose challenges in the future."

The Air Force's 2023 budget request includes a 4.3% increase in the Basic Housing Allowance, a 3.4% jump in the Basic Allowance for Subsistence designed to offset the cost of groceries, and a 4.6% pay raise. Those proposals, along with the reinstatement of the Special Duty Assignment Pay for certain career fields, must be approved by Congress.

Kendall's announcement Monday follows news that the Pentagon has seemingly halted a planned cost-of-living allowance cut -- otherwise known as COLA -- to service members stationed in Hawaii.

The Department of Defense circulated information in a Sept. 6 memo about a looming COLA reduction to service members stationed in Hawaii. After being contacted by Military.com last week about the allowance cut, the Pentagon said that the memo is being rescinded and that no final decision has been made.



## Legion Grants Help Members Affected by Natural Disasters

The American Legion  
AUG 16, 2022

The American Legion National Emergency Fund (NEF) stands ready to assist Legionnaires, American Legion posts and Sons of The American Legion members affected by a declared natural disaster. With the recent flooding in Kentucky, fires out West and hurricane season approaching, NEF is available to help those affected.

In 2021, the NEF issued over \$203,240 in grants to seven Legion posts and 95 members. And since 1989, NEF has provided more than \$8 million in direct financial assistance to Legionnaires, Sons members and American Legion posts.

### National Emergency Fund

The NEF provides up to \$3,000 for American Legion and Sons of The American Legion members with an active membership who



The back of the heavily damaged American Legion Post 26 building in downtown Mayfield, Ky., where a large theater screen used to be. (Photo by Henry Howard.)

have been displaced due to damages to their primary residence, and up to \$10,000 for posts that have been damaged by a natural disaster and whose programs and activities within the community are impacted.

[Apply for an NEF grant here.](#)

### Temporary Financial Assistance

The American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) also is available to help families in need meet the cost of shelter, food, utilities, clothing, and health expenses. For example, during a natural disaster where a family has lost a home or it's been severely damaged, TFA can help cover the cost of temporary housing.

TFA grants are available to minor children of active-duty servicemembers or American Legion members. No child can be considered eligible until a complete investigation is conducted at the post or department level, a legitimate family need is determined, and all other available assistance resources have been utilized or exhausted.

For TFA information on eligibility requirements and how to apply, visit [legion.org/financialassistance](https://legion.org/financialassistance).



## Detachment SGT-at-Arms Recognized for Relief efforts

Submitted by Laurie Kuntz, Auxiliary NEC

Detachment Sergeant-at Arms Teddy Kuntz received the National American Legion Auxiliary Good Deed award for his project "Heal the Children" for the children affected in the Marshall Fire. He wants to thank all the Members, Units, Posts, Squadrons, and Community members and members from other states that donated to help the children heal. He was super excited that National American Legion Auxiliary President Kathy Daudistel and National Children and Youth Chairman Trish Ward signed the certificate, he said "mom I know them" .

Thank you all.

Betty Pickett, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 68 in Brush Colorado and his Aunt were able to present him with the award on behalf of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Interested in nominating a child for the Good Deed Award or Youth Hero Award, visit the



national page (<https://www.legion-aux.org/youth-hero-good-deed-awards>) for more information or contact the Department Children and Youth Chair Dawn Valdes, Unit 2 Pueblo.

### About Heal the Children

Thank you to the American Legion Family for helping with my project, "Heal the Children". Your generosity has helped many children who were victims of the Marshall Fire. Donation total are more than \$12,000 of items (I am sure way more), \$600 in gift cards, and \$1200 in cash, so far. We are going to find out specific needs to get what

they need.

Special thank you to ALA & VFW Unit 1, Unit 2, Unit 18, Unit 25, Unit 68, Post 206, and the American Legion Family at my post 1985, oh yeah and my mom for supporting and helping. We have received items for many community members, friends, others not listed, and family. Donations have been dropped off, in my mom's car, and Post 1985. 1985's Service Officer, Ric Payne, has help to transport a horse trailer full of items to Louisville Post 111 for distribution. Donations will be needed for a long time.

THANK YOU EVERYONE for helping to Heal the Children.

Thank you for your PASSION!!

Laurie Kuntz

**American Legion Auxiliary**

National Executive Committee 2021-2023  
Northwest Division Children & Youth Chair 2022-2023



## Legion Baseball Alum Smacks 700th Home Run

The American Legion  
SEP 24, 2022

One of Gary Stone's favorite stories about Albert Pujols stems from an event when Pujols was 17 years old and playing American Legion Baseball for Stone in Independence, Mo.

"We were in a tournament about 80 miles from here; he always rode to the tournaments with me. And I had a cousin of his who was playing for me, too, and they were having a heated conversation (in Spanish) on the way back home," said Stone, the American Legion Baseball Committee Chairman. "Finally, Albert just threw his hands up. I said, 'You want to translate that for me?'" And what had happened during the game was, Albert played shortstop for me and he knew where everybody on the field should be. My left fielder had done something, and coming off the field they were arguing and almost got into a fight, and I benched both of them."

The gist of the argument between Pujols and his cousin was that Stone was "stupid" for benching Pujols, the best player on the team. "I said, 'What do you say to that?'" (Albert) said, 'I should not fight with my teammates, you should bench me.' And he was 17 years old when he said that, so that's a great insight into his character," Stone recalled.

Pujols became the fourth player in Major League Baseball history to hit 700 career



Albert Pujols shares his stories about his experience with American Legion Baseball as he is interviewed during spring training in Phoenix, Ariz. on March 6, 2015. Photo by Lucas Carter/The American Legion.

home runs when he hit two Friday night in St. Louis' 11-0 win over the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Pujols, who [played Legion Baseball](#) for Hi-Boy Drive/Post 340 in Independence, Mo., joined Barry Bonds (762 home runs), Hank Aaron (755) and Babe Ruth (714) in the 700-home run club. Bonds also played Legion Baseball, in San Mateo, Calif.

[Pujols homered off Dodgers lefthander Andrew Heaney in the third inning](#) for his 699th career home run, [then notched No. 700 off righthander Phil Bickford](#) in the fourth inning. Pujols also now has 2,208 career RBIs, trailing Aaron (2,297) and Ruth (2,214).

The victory helped the Cardinals improve to

89-63 overall, with a 7 ½ game lead over the Milwaukee Brewers in the National League Central Division with 10 games to play. Milwaukee closed the gap to 6½ games when the Cardinals lost to the Dodgers Saturday night. Pujols told MLB.com that he was [overcome with emotion](#) after No. 700.

"What a special night. To have my family in town and to do it at Dodger Stadium," Pujols said, noting that his joy of the game returned when he played for the Dodgers last season. "It's pretty special with the Dodgers fans here, and I get both sides of this. (The Dodgers) get to enjoy this and I get to do it with a Cardinals uniform, which makes it even more special. I'm just thanking God."

Pujols plans to retire at the end of the season, wrapping up a 22-season MLB career with the Cardinals, Los Angeles Angels and Dodgers. He [reflected](#) on his American Legion Baseball experience in 2015.

Stone said Pujols was "a class act."

"He always knew that he wanted to be a major league player. We all thought he'd get there, we just had no idea he would get there as quick as he did, nor could any of us know he'd do what he's done. He was mature beyond his years, but he was always focused on working hard at it and knowing what he had to do," Stone said.



## Protecting the Emblem No Touchy

From [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org)

By Clara Pon, Department of France, China Post  
I Auxiliary  
JAN 14, 2020

No, I'm not referring to priceless paintings thousands of years old displayed in museums, the electric fence with its warning signs, or the tall holiday displays at department stores. I am talking about what you are not supposed to do with The American Legion emblem when you are using it in a design.

No "touchy" is National Judge Advocate Kevin Bartlett's catch phrase when he gave a presentation to the 2019 National American Legion College class last November on the use of the emblem and the trademark name, The American Legion. What does it mean? It means that nothing can be touching any part of the emblem. There is no set distance away. Take the new Department of California image as an example. The California silhouette is not touching the top or bottom of The American Legion emblem. It's close enough and yet far enough to not violate the trademark and patent law. I was informed that California's new image did get approved by American Legion National Headquarters for department use. Yes, the department must also request permission to use the emblem since the design was altered.

Many American Legion Family members don't think they need to concern themselves with the dos and don'ts of using the name or emblem of The American Legion. For the vast majority, that may be the case, however, knowing the basic fundamentals should be part of your American Legion knowledge. The emblem is the organization's brand. It should be recognizable in the way most of us

recognize the red wavy font of Coca Cola, lowercase font of amazon, and the child-like font of Disney. Their color, font and design are all elements that make their symbols iconic and recognized.

A few months ago, I saw a group of men wearing shirts with the wrong Sons of The American Legion emblem on it. The Sons logo was in red, rather than light blue and somewhat round, rather than oval. It was obvious that they wanted to promote the organization by being noticed with their large, bright red logo. However, it clearly was not the correct Sons logo. Instead of promoting brand awareness of the Sons of The American Legion with the correct emblem, it was damaged by the change.

According to the Name and Emblem Guide, the Sons of The American Legion emblem is an oval made up of four colors – gold, dark gold, light French blue and light brown – with the letters all capitalized.

Another important lesson that was shared by a National Legion College student for all to learn from was when she gave her new Legion business card to Bartlett and was told in return that she couldn't pass them out anymore – and that she didn't get approval to have them printed. Flabbergasted, she asked "Why?" For starters, she didn't use the correct American Legion emblem. Oops! She downloaded a cool looking blue metallic version that's been floating on the Internet for some time now.

Secondly, they were professionally printed. She didn't print them off her printer, but through a retailer. Unbeknownst to a majority of us, how business cards are produced determines whether or not you need to request permission from National Headquar-

ters. Basically, if you go to Office Depot, Staples, Vistaprint or any of those types of vendors where you pay for it, you need permission to reproduce The American Legion emblem.

However, if you print them off your printer on business card stock, you don't need permission. There was no exchange of money. But you still have to use a proper American Legion emblem.

To submit an American Legion emblem usage request, go to [legion.org/emblem/request](http://legion.org/emblem/request).

It seems that this particular topic has been neglected for some time now and hasn't been enforced resulting in widespread misuses, and in a way, abuse of the brand. If you recall during the 2018 Spring Meetings, the National Executive Committee passed Resolution No. 1: Rules and Regulations Governing Use of the Name and Emblem of The American Legion to clarify the rules and regulations of its use. National continues to ensure that its brand, its most valuable asset, is properly used, marketed and promoted.

If this still doesn't make sense on how it applies to you, then think of it this way. Let's say your name is Santa Claus and you wear a red suit and have a thick white beard. You are known for bringing presents to children all over the world for Christmas. On Christmas Day, someone decides to change your name to Santa Clown, dresses up in purple and green dotted suit with a painted face sporting a goatee and delivers used presents to children all over the world. Is that the brand image that Santa Claus is associated with? No. So, let's use the emblem correctly and with proper permission.



## Further Explanation to "NO TOUCHY" Rule With Legion Emblem

From [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org) The American Legion  
Feb 11, 2020

### American Legion emblem

In the January issue of *Dispatch*, the main story discussed how nothing can be infringing upon the emblem of The American Legion, however, on page 5 of that same issue the Buddy Check poster showed Uncle Sam leaning on it – this is a historical image of the Legion's. So the Buddy Check poster is acceptable, and the following is why, according to National Judge Advocate Kevin Bartlett.

The American Legion's founding charter affords the national organization control and exclusive rights to use the emblems, badges and other items The American Legion adopts. During its history, The American Legion has selectively granted permission on occasion to allow a design to infringe on its emblem for creative and branding purposes for special designs. Besides the Buddy Check poster, other examples of objects infringing on the emblem include the recent American Legion commemora-

tive coin series issued by the U.S. Mint and the centennial lithographic print available through Emblem Sales ([emblem.legion.org](http://emblem.legion.org), Item No. 7559101).

Therefore, except when specific and selected permission has been properly granted, National Judge Advocate Kevin Bartlett's "no touchy" rule is the short version of The American Legion policy that nothing can be touching any part of an American Legion emblem.



## 'Be the One' Takes the Stage at National Convention

From [legion.org](http://legion.org)

By [Henry Howard](#)

AUG 31, 2022

In the last 20 years, more than 120,000 veterans have died by suicide.

However, The American Legion is focusing on a single number — one. [A new campaign, called "Be the One,"](#) aims to change the conversation, reduce the stigma of asking for help with mental health and empower everyone to help save the life of one veteran.

During The American Legion's 103rd national convention on Aug. 31, National Commander Paul E. Dillard welcomed a special panel on stage to discuss the issue, the Legion's involvement and more.

"Nothing is more important to The American Legion than preventing veteran suicide," Dillard said. "We are not only to 'Be the One,' but it is the one — the number one is-

sue for us. I am excited about this next panel because this is a discussion that we need to have. We need to hear ideas and we need to always listen."

VET TV Chief Executive Officer Waco Hoover, a Marine veteran, served as moderator.

"This is one of the greatest crises facing our military community. And it's amazing what the Legion is doing with respect to Be the One," said Hoover, who serves on the board of Irreverent Warriors, a nonprofit dedicated to veteran suicide prevention.

The panelists were:

- Dr. Thomas Joiner, director of the Florida State University Psychology Clinic. He has researched the topic for the Laboratory for the Study and Prevention of Suicide-Related Conditions and Behavior at FSU. Joiner said the issue is deeply personal to him. "It runs in my family," he said, noting he lost his father to suicide. "He was a veteran, having

served as a Marine. There have been other deaths too, so it's profoundly personal to me."

- Dave Berkenfield, an American Legion member, retired Navy SEAL and Chip Gannassi Racing team manager for the Extreme E program. "What we're trying to accomplish here is to change the dialogue," said Berkenfield, whose story will be shared in the October issue of *American Legion Magazine*. "Whatever we can do, whatever I can do, I am happy to do it."

During the panel discussion, Joiner said many of the patients he sees are suicidal yet there is hope.

"There are resources and ways that we can turn this tragic phenomenon around," he said. Among them:

- Call the national suicide hotline, 988, press 1.

(Continued on page 9)



## One Night, One Team, 100 miles

From [legion.org](http://legion.org)

By [Henry Howard](#)

AUG 18, 2022

Leave it to Mitchell Keil to conceive an extreme challenge as part of The American Legion [100 Miles for Hope](#) campaign.

Keil, commander of American Legion Post 125 in North Adams, Mass., [developed a 100-mile relay](#) from his post to another as a way to celebrate the conclusion of the third annual fitness/wellness challenge.

"If I'm going to do something, I'm going to do it to the extreme," said Keil, a Marine Corps veteran. "What better way than to go from North Adams, Massachusetts, to Sutton, Massachusetts, which is clear across the state. Luckily, I got a nice team together who could help me."

His team was made up of American Legion Family members who rallied to support Keil and ended up doing most of the walking during the 33-hour relay on Aug. 13-14. The reason: Keil tore his ACL a few months ago.

"I haven't been doing that much walking in the past couple of months," he said during a break at American Legion Post 306 in Paxton. "They all said they were going to help and they have stepped up in a big way. I wouldn't be here, at the Paxton post, for breakfast, without them."

The Legion Family group included his wife and Auxiliary member, Kaitlyn, their 8-month-old daughter, Raegan, friend Shaun Muldowney and Post 125 Squadron Commander Joseph Poplaski. They were among those who walked through the night in support of the 100-mile relay.

"I've always donated my time to the Legion," said Poplaski, whose dad served in the Army during World War II. "It's important to the veterans. I was never able to serve but I just wanted to give back. I do what I can."

During a break at American Legion Post 435 in Worcester, Poplaski said the Legion Fam-

ily was committed to completing the vision Keil created.

"He was hurtin'. I'm hurtin'. We're all hurtin'. But we just had to come together and do it for him. We didn't want to let him down. There was no turning back."

Keil accompanied the team the entire way, mostly in the support vehicle but walked the final stretch to a grand welcoming in Sutton.

Throughout the walk, Post 125 team members shared their journey on Facebook, securing donations for The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation (V&CF). They also received some contributions from those they encountered along the way, including one memorable donor.

During a night-time stop, a panhandler approached the group to ask for money. "We told him what we were doing and he ended up giving us a dollar," Keil said.

In Sutton, a contingent of roughly 100 American Legion Family members, law enforcement officials and others escorted the relay team on the final stretch. Waving American and Legion Family flags, the group completed the challenge, walking under a huge American flag, welcoming them to Post 414.

Months ago when Keil contacted Post 414 Commander Bill Hallene about the idea, he quickly agreed to host the finish line celebration.

"It really brings the Legion name out and makes us as a focal point to what we do around here," said Hallene, an Army veteran. "We do a lot for the community and veterans but we don't do it for the accolades. This walk is great and it brings into focus what the Legion Family can provide people."

Hallene noted the post's Legion Family is committed to supporting the community's veterans and families, which ties in to the foundation's beneficiaries.

"That's one of the biggest things we do," he said. "When I joined the Legion 25 years ago, it was to return to my community and help other people who are less fortunate than I am. We're here for every veteran, every child.

That's what our mission is. It's good to know where the money is going and that it is for a good cause."

But Post 414 did more than provide food, water and shelter for the relay team.

"When you contacted me, I thought this was a great idea — and this thing, through the goodness of the Legion — it became huge and it's amazing. I'm honored that you guys picked Sutton as your ending point," Hallene said, handing Keil a \$1,000 check for the V&CF via the 100 Miles for Hope challenge. Post 414 isn't stopping there. Members are already plotting to return the favor, conducting their own relay next year and finishing at Post 125.

"The Central Massachusetts Legion is really involved, and it's not really surprising what this turned into," Hallene said. "It turned into a really nice event."

Department of Massachusetts Commander Sally Nay, a member of Post 130 in Palmer, was among those who greeted the weary walkers in Sutton.

"It shows that the next generation is actively being part of The American Legion and making sure their fellow soldiers and veterans are taken care of," Nay said. "Mitch, who is spearheading this, is a younger veteran. He's been doing other projects in his community. This shows me that the Legion has a lot of support."

Nay pointed out that both Post 125 and 414 share common threads — Legion Family members that strengthen the post.

"Both posts are very active and do a lot of different things," she said. "They really do bring the Legion to the forefront (in their communities)."

Nay is looking forward to Post 414's plans to do their 100-mile relay next spring. "I think that would be a wonderful idea," she said. "And maybe there will be other members who would want to go part of the way with them and help raise money across the state of Massachusetts to raise money for this event. That would be wonderful."



## 'Be the One'

(Continued from page 8)

- Talk with your primary care physician. "They see a lot of this and they know how to manage it and know what to do."
- "If you are a religious person, see your clergy person. They also see a lot of this and know what to do."

Hoover emphasized the importance of communicating. "Social connections save lives and that is one of the extraordinary things about the Legion and this initiative," he said.

The campaign also aims to change the conversation. Be the one to ask for help. Be the one to console a veteran. Be the one to make a difference.

"If we save one life, we have won," Berkenfield said. "And let's be OK with that."

And sometimes, "we just need to Be the One for ourselves," Joiner said. "You're a human. You have inherent worth, dignity and deserve to be rescued, too." Berkenfield recalled a phrase, "What level are you willing to participate," coined by a former SEAL teammate.

"It was how we lived our life," he explained. "We need to participate at the highest level. Everyone in this room is somehow associated with the service. I would ask you now as a veteran, as a member of The American Legion, as part

of this Be the One campaign at what level are you willing to participate? Each one of you has that ability to 'Be the One.' Let's start it right here."

*Berkenfield's story is part of a special series on "Be the One," which began in the September issue of the magazine. Additionally, The American Legion Tango Alpha Lima podcast will feature a guest discussing the suicide awareness and prevention issue each week during the month of September. The episodes will be available each Tuesday morning [at the podcast web page](#), as well as podcast-hosting sites.*



## Flag Myths

(Continued from page 4)

buildings and on stationary flag staffs in the open. However, when a patriotic effect is desired, the flag may be displayed twenty-four hours a day if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness."

**The mayor, a town official, or the Post Commander can order the flag to be displayed at half-staff.**

The gesture of placing the flag at half-staff means that the Nation or the state mourns the death of a highly regarded National or state figure, hence only the President of the United States or the Governor of the state may order the Flag to be half-staffed in accordance with Flag Code section 7(m). Those individuals and agencies that usurp authori-

ty and display the flag at half-staff on inappropriate occasions are quickly eroding the honor and reverence accorded this solemn act.

**The Flag Code states that when the flag is no longer a fitting emblem for display it is to be disposed of by burning in private.**

The Flag Code as revised and adopted by the Congress of the United States in 1942 has never included the word(s) "private" or "in privacy." Section 8(k) of the Flag Code states: "The flag, when it is in such a condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning." Since 1937, The American Legion has promoted the use of a public flag disposal ceremony. This ceremony is a fitting tribute and an overt expression

of patriotism, which enhances the public's understanding of honor and respect due the American flag.

**The Flag Code prohibits the "fringing" of the flag.**

Fringing of the flag is neither approved of nor prohibited by the Flag Code. The American Legion considers that fringe is used as an honorable enrichment to the Flag. Additionally the courts have deemed without merit and frivolous, lawsuits that contend that the gold fringe adorning the flag conferred Admiralty/Maritime jurisdiction.



## Veterans, Be Wary of PACT Act Scammers

The American Legion  
OCT 06, 2022

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is warning veterans that there are scammers looking to cash in on their PACT Act benefits. Veterans and their benefits are the targets of many types of fraud, including mail, telephone and online fraud. VA is working to prevent these incidents, but the veteran is the best line of defense against this criminal activity.

The number of email phishing, scam phone calls and social media scams targeting veterans has increased as veterans begin to apply for PACT Act benefits.

VA offers these tips about being contacted regarding your VA benefits:

- If you receive correspondence from VA concerning a claim, and you don't remember filing a claim, contact VA directly at (800) 827-1000 to confirm details.
- VA will never charge you for processing a claim or request a processing fee prior to releasing benefit payments.

- VA will never ask for your personal information via email. This includes verification of your SSN, address, and/or bank information. VA only addresses personal information via mailed letters.

- VA may check in with you by phone, email or text message. If you are unsure about any call, email, or text, confirm details with VA directly at (800) 827-1000.

- VA does not threaten claimants with jail or lawsuits.

- Be cautious of telephone numbers on your caller ID. Scammers can change the telephone number (spoofing) to make a call appear to come from a different person or place.

- When in doubt, hang up and call VA directly at (800) 827-1000, or call your power of attorney representative.

- If you receive an email or letter from VA notifying you that your direct deposit information was updated, or that your eBenefits account information was updated, and you don't remember doing so — immediately contact VA at (800) 827-1000. Do not ignore

the email or letter. It could be your first sign that your information has been compromised.

The American Legion provides veterans with assistance in filing disability claims free of charge and with no membership requirement. Veterans will not be charged by the Legion at any point while filing their claims and will be guided through the process by VA-accredited representatives through a national network of more than 3,000 accredited service officers.

To find an accredited American Legion service officer in your area, please visit [legion.org/serviceofficers](https://www.legion.org/serviceofficers).

To learn more about protecting yourself from fraud, and how to report it, visit [va.gov/oig/hotline/default.asp](https://va.gov/oig/hotline/default.asp)

For more details on how to avoid scams, go to [fcc.gov/veterans-targeted-benefits-scams](https://www.fcc.gov/veterans-targeted-benefits-scams).

Download free financial scam awareness resources at [consumerfinance.gov/about-us/blog/helping-prevent-scams-targeted-veterans/](https://www.consumerfinance.gov/about-us/blog/helping-prevent-scams-targeted-veterans/)



## Legislative News

Submitted by Richard Humphrey

Reducing the Rate of veteran suicide is at the top of The American Legion mission. H.R.6411 – the Support the Resiliency of Our Nation's Great (STRONG) Veterans Act of 2022 – is a comprehensive mental health package that addresses mental health care provided by the Department of Veteran Affairs. It calls for VA to:

- Update training for its workforce and Veteran Crisis Line staff
- Implement pilot programs to examine Veteran Crisis facilitation to increase use among high-risk veterans
- Expand access to mental health care
- Conduct studies and research on best practic-

es  
Provide outreach to veterans regarding mental health resources

This STRONG Veterans Act will include the Buddy Check Week legislation which The American Legion launched several years as a way to encourage Legionnaires to conduct veteran outreach.

On Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, the House passed by voice vote five bills related to veterans:

- HR 7846 – Veteran Compensation Cost of Living Adjustment Act
- HR 5916 – Wounded Warrior Access Act
- HR 7939 – Student Veteran Emergency Relief Act
- HR 8260 – Faster Payments for Veterans'

Survivors Act

HR 7735 – Improving Accessing to the VA Home Loan benefits Act

On Wednesday September 21, the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs will hold a hearing titled "Hearing to examine the VA's electronic health record modernization, focusing on rollout, cost and schedule."

Also on Wednesday, September 21, the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee will hold a hearing titled, "Hearing to examine ensuring veterans' timely access to care in VA and the community."

Richard Humphrey  
National Legislative Commission



## Support Disabled Veterans By Passing the Major Richard Star Act

From [legion.org](https://www.legion.org)

Right now, VA deducts the retirement pay of veterans with a disability rating of less than 50%. These veterans who have been forced into medical retirement are being penalized for their injuries, and there is no excuse for it. Disability compensation and retirement pay are two different payments, and should be treated as such. DoD awards retirement pay for honorable service, while the VA is responsible for disability compensation. Conflating the two and forcing deductions in retirement pay is an injustice.

The American Legion stands with disabled veterans and urges Congress not to continue this denial of retirement benefits. The Major Richard Star Act would repeal this draconian offset for those veterans who are medically retired due to injuries sustained in combat and allow them to receive both their retirement pay without forfeiting their disability compensation.

**TAKE ACTION NOW**



### THE APPLICATION FOR THE NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IS NOW OPEN

With the midterm elections a month away, The American Legion is beginning the process of rebuilding its National Legislative Council for the 118 Congress. Interested candidates may submit their applications at [Action Center \(votervoicenet.com\)](https://www.actioncenter.votervoicenet.com) for their departments' consideration. Legionnaires are encouraged to submit their applications before the Nov. 8 election. The National Legislative Council (NLC) is a 535 member group designated to serve as direct liaisons to every member of the U.S. Congress. Approved in Resolution 45 by the National Executive Committee in 1975, the council's aim is to "propagate an interest in a furtherance of the legislative goals of The American Legion and to serve as a medium for disseminating information and developing an understanding with our elected representatives.

Members of the NLC are relied on to reinforce The American Legion's overall legislative efforts, particularly at times when immediate and personal contact with lawmakers is necessary

typically referred to as "grassroots contact."

They routinely email, write, and/or call lawmakers and their staff regarding veterans legislation. Members should strive to visit the lawmaker's local office at least once per month to discuss issues that will directly impact The American Legion's legislative goals. Members work to: Promote an interest in and a furtherance of The American Legion's legislative goals. • Serve as a liaison for disseminating information to elected lawmakers and staff. • Develop and maintain strong working relationships with elected lawmakers and staff. • Disseminate information on proposed and adopted veterans legislation to posts and members of the Legion within the congressional district. Position requirements include: • Current member of The American Legion • Experience working with public relations and/or elected officials is a plus. • Excellent verbal and written communications skills are necessary. • Comfortable speaking and making presentations to larger groups. • Ability to use social media. • Ability to represent The American Legion and veterans to various groups and organizations.

For additional information visit the aforementioned website.



## House Republicans Demand Answers from Pentagon on Military COVID-19 Vaccine Mandate's Effect on Military Readiness

**For Immediate Release:** September 16, 2022  
**Contact:** Cassandra Sebastian (719) 520-0055

### **Pentagon fails to meet recruiting goals and then reduces recruitment standards; approximately 100,000 servicemembers now at risk of discharge**

**Washington, D.C.-** Congressman Doug Lamborn joined Congressmen Mike Johnson, Chip Roy, Thomas Massie, and 43 Republican Members of Congress in [sending a letter](#) to Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin. The Members demanded answers from the Pentagon regarding the effect of the Secretary's military COVID-19 vaccine mandate on the readiness of America's Armed Forces.

*"It is no secret that the Pentagon severely missed the mark when implementing its COVID-19 vaccine mandate," said Congressman Lamborn. "I am concerned that the Department of Defense's heavy-handed approach will exacerbate our military readiness challenges in the short and long term. The Pentagon's haphazard response to the military recruitment crisis it faces has so far included failing to meet recruitment goals, drastically reducing recruitment standards, and now slating approximately 100,000 servicemembers for involuntary discharge. While our adversaries are closing the gap on our qualitative military edge, we cannot afford to lose these highly skilled and credentialed men and women in uniform or the supporting civilian workforce. I thank Congressmen Johnson, Roy, and Massie for leading this effort, and will continue to fight for the first amendment freedoms of our men and women in uniform."*

*"The Biden Administration's military vaccine mandate is clearly harming military readiness by creating unnecessary recruiting and retention shortfalls," said Congressman Johnson. "And now, after the Pentagon has tried, and failed, to make up the difference by reducing recruitment standards, over 100,000 active servicemembers—who taxpayers paid to train—face discharge during the worst recruiting year in our military's history. All of this over an illness that is extremely unlikely to have any significant effect on our servicemembers. Until the Secretary of Defense withdraws this disastrous mandate, or begins rapidly granting more exemptions, the readiness and professionalism of our Armed Forces will suffer."*

*"Joe Biden's message to young, healthy American patriots is clear: unless you submit to taking a politicized, ineffective COVID-19 vaccine, you cannot serve in the Armed Forces," said Congressman Roy. "Through their tyrannical military vaccine mandate, this Administration is intentionally forcing out thousands of the brave men and women who sacrifice to serve our country. This de facto ideological purge will continue to undermine our military readiness for years to come."*

*"Telling servicemembers they can apply for religious exemptions from COVID vaccine mandates while denying almost all requests received is fraud," said Congressman Massie. "Our letter asks the Department of Defense (DOD) to provide the data needed to determine if the DOD is perpetuating this fraud on our military personnel. A policy of blanket denials is unjust, especially when the COVID shots forced on the military by the Secretary of Defense were not FDA approved as is legally required for any compulsory vaccine."*

Representatives Elise Stefanik (NY), Robert Aderholt (AL), Rick Allen (GA), Jim Banks (IN), Jack Bergman (MI), Andy Biggs (AZ), Dan Bishop (NC), Tim Burchett (TN), Ben Cline (VA), Dan Crenshaw (TX), Warren Davidson (OH), Scott DesJarlais (TN), Jeff Duncan (SC), Scott Franklin (FL), Matt Gaetz (FL), Louie Gohmert (TX), Bob Good (VA), Lance Gooden (TX), Garret Graves (LA), Mark Green (TN), Glenn Grothman (WI), Diana Harshbarger (TN), Vicky Hartzler (MO), Clay Higgins (LA), Richard Hudson (NC), Ronny Jackson (TX), Debbie Lesko (AZ), Billy Long (MO), Tracey Mann (KS), Brian Mast (FL), Lisa McClain (MI), Mary Miller (IL), Markwayne Mullin (OK), Greg Murphy (NC), Ralph Norman (SC), Bill Posey (FL), Guy Reschenthaler (PA), Jason Smith (MO), Greg Steube (FL), and Jeff Van Drew (NJ) also joined the letter.

## American Flag Display FAQ

### **Can a flag that has covered a casket be displayed after its original use?**

There are no provisions in the Flag Code to suggest otherwise. It would be a fitting tribute to the memory of the deceased veteran and his or her service to a grateful nation if the casket flag is displayed.

### **Can the U.S. flag be displayed in inclement weather?**

The flag should not be displayed on days when the weather is inclement, with the exception of an all-weather (nylon or other non-absorbent material) flag. However, most flags are made of all-weather materials.

### **What is the significance of displaying the flag at half-staff?**

This gesture is a sign to indicate the nation mourns the death of an individual(s), such as death of the president or former president, vice president, Supreme Court justice, member of Congress, secretary of an executive or military department, etc. Only the president or a state governor may order the flag to be displayed at half-staff. The honor and reverence accorded this solemn act is quickly becoming eroded by those individuals and agencies that display the flag at half-staff on inappropriate occasions without proper authority to do so. To be notified when the flag is to be displayed at half-

staff, sign up for the Flag Alert e-newsletter at [legion.org/newsletters](http://legion.org/newsletters).

### **When the flag is not flown from a staff, how should it be displayed?**

It should be displayed vertically, whether indoors or out, and suspended so that its folds fall free as though the flag were staffed. The stripes may be displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall, and the union should be uppermost and to the flag's own right (that is, to the observer's left). When displayed in a window of a home or a place of business, the flag should be displayed in the same way (that is, with the union or blue field to the left of the observer in the street).

### **Can the flag be washed or dry-cleaned?**

Yes. No provisions of the Flag Code prohibit such care. The decision to wash or dry-clean would depend on the material.

### **Are you required to destroy the flag if it touches the ground?**

The Flag Code states that the flag should not touch anything beneath it, including the ground. This is stated to indicate that care

should be exercised in the handling of the flag, to protect it from becoming soiled or damaged. You are not required to destroy the flag when this happens. As long as the flag remains suitable for display, even if washing or dry-cleaning is required, you may continue to display the flag as a symbol of our great country.

### **What is the significance of the gold fringe seen on some U.S. flags?**

Records indicate that fringe was first used on the flag as early as 1835. It was not until 1895 that it was officially added to the national flag for all Army regiments. For civilian use, fringe is not required as an integral part of the flag, nor can its use be said to constitute an unauthorized addition to the design prescribed by statute. Fringe is used as an honorable enrichment only.

### **What is meant by the flag's own right?**

The "right" as the position of honor developed from the time when the right hand was the "weapon hand" or "point of danger." The right hand, raised without a weapon, was a sign of peace. The right hand, to any observer, is the observer's left. Therefore, as used in the Flag Code, the flag and/or blue field is displayed to the observer's left, which is the flag's "own right."





**WHO:** Open to all Family Members and their guests

**WHAT:** Colorado SAL Detachment Annual Awards Banquet

- Chicken Alfredo
- Garlic Bread
- Salad
- Dessert
- Tea/Lemonade/Water
- Cash Bar available upstairs

**WHERE:** American Legion Post 209

3613 Jeannine Drive Colorado Springs, CO 80917

**WHEN:** 19 November 2022

- Social Hour: 5pm – 6pm
- Dinner: Starts at 6pm
- Awards Presentation: 6:45pm

**WHY:** To honor the accomplishments of our SAL members

**RSVP** on or before Nov 16<sup>th</sup> to Mrs. Jackie Bowen and specify this event to:

- Email: jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com
- Text: 901-481-0673



We have **extended the sale of the tickets** until **Nov 1, 2022** due to an incorrect telephone number for Nicole.

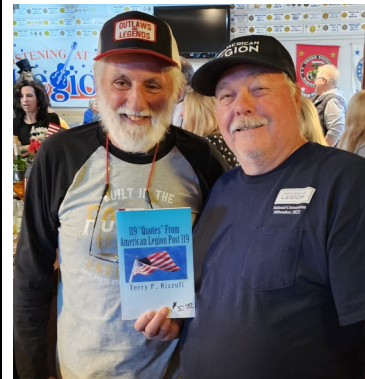
We would like to invite you to join us for our first annual Military Ball on November 12, 2022. Located at 870 1st Street, Firestone, CO 80520. Festivities will begin at 1700 hours.

- **Tickets:** Tickets are \$25 per person. We will accept cash or checks. Proceeds will go to the Veterans Fund for the Legionnaires and the Auxiliary for Post 1985. Please contact **Nicole Grimm at 661.645.6044** or **Trista Grimm at 720.520.5517** to purchase tickets or for any questions you may have.
- **Dress Code:** Formal to Semi-Formal and Military Uniforms are strongly encouraged. Business formal or casual is also acceptable.

*We are looking forward to a great event and hope that you will join us to celebrate our Military men and women with food, dancing, prizes, and lots of laughter.*

**Donations are welcome. Please contact Nicole at 661.645.6044 or Trista at 720.520.5517. Thank You!**

As we enjoy our various Posts and relax in the lounge, we sometimes hear some interesting and comical things being said. It seems like almost every Legion Post has the same types of characters. When I visited Post 119 in Estes Park, I came across a book written by a Past Post Commander who over the years started memorializing some of the things he heard and decided to put them to print. The book is entitled "119 "Quotes" From American Legion Post 119". I decided to fork up the \$5.00 and buy the book and was fortunate to meet the author Terry P. Ruzzuti who was kind enough to autograph the book and grant me permission to use excerpts from the book to put in our Electronic Update. But he had one condition; I had to use his favorite quote first. So here is quote 22 from the book, "119 "Quotes" from American Legion Post 119". Used with written permission from the author.



# 22- *"I'm from so back in the woods, to stay warm, my sister and I took turns wetting the bed."*



## The GREAT PUMPKIN SHOOT

October 25, 2022

Young Guns of Post 2, Pueblo

Hotdogs and chips served starting at 6:00 pm

The 1<sup>st</sup> Pumpkins fall at 6:30 pm

**Open to all who dare**

COST IS a pint of BLOOD or donation

Includes hotdogs, chips, and blood punch

Prizes for worst shot, best shot, and almost best shot

We will supply all guns and ammo.

## CELEBRATE WITH THE MARINES



Enjoy the pomp and ceremony of the Marine Corps

### BIRTHDAY BALL

247 YEARS 1775 - 2022

NOVEMBER 5, 2022

STARTING AT 1700 (5:00 P.M.)

EMBASSY SUITES LOVELAND



LOVELAND MARINE CORPS LEAGUE DETACHMENT 1250

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO RECEIVE AN INVITATION CALL

SOLOMON (970)-214-5260 PATRICK (970) 420-1945

EMAIL: leatherneck73@comcast.net

WEB SITE [www.LovelandMCL.com](http://www.LovelandMCL.com)